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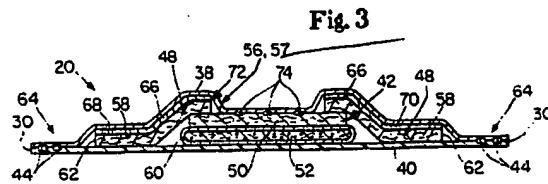
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(54) Absorbent articles with multiple layer absorbent cores.

(57) Absorbent articles such as disposable diapers, incontinent pads, sanitary napkins and the like that have multiple layer absorbent cores that are suitable for acquiring and containing liquids in an especially effective and efficient manner. The absorbent core comprises multiple layers including a first layer comprising hydrophilic fibrous material and having an acquisition zone of a relatively lower average density than the other portions of the first layer so that it quickly acquires discharged liquids; a liquid handling layer comprising a resilient material that is moisture insensitive so as to rapidly acquire liquid into itself through the acquisition zone and distribute the liquid throughout the liquid handling layer to a storage layer and the first layer; and a storage layer comprising a combination of fibrous material and discrete particles of absorbent gelling material that contains and stores the liquids deposited onto the absorbent core and allows the liquid handling layer to be "drained" of the liquids it has acquired so that the liquid handling layer may have sufficient capacity

to acquire and distribute subsequent loadings of liquids.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)		
X	GB-A-2 124 907 (SMITH AND NEPHEW) * Abstract; page 1, lines 1-30,39-45,98-104,109-119 * -----	1-8	A 61 F 13/18		
X,D	EP-A-0 254 476 (THE PROCTER AND GAMBLE CO.) * Figures 4,6-8; page 3, line 2 - page 5, line 11; page 14, lines 2-8; page 21, lines 1-15; page 25; page 30, lines 25-31; page 33, lines 24-36 * -----	1-8			
E,X	EP-A-0 316 771 (KIMBERLEY CLARK CO.) * All the document * -----	1-8			
A	EP-A-0 030 342 (HENKEL KOMMANDITGESELLSCHAFT auf Akt.) * Figures 9-11 * -----	5			
A	EP-A-0 119 919 (LAB. BIOTROL) * Abstract; figures 1,2; page 9, lines 6-10 * -----	5,9			
A	US-A-4 102 340 (MESEK et al.) * Figures 1-4,7 * -----	1-10			
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)					
A 61 F					
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of search	Examiner			
The Hague	23 December 90	ARGENTINI A.			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention					
E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document					